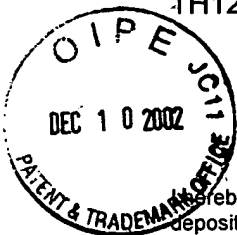


TH1258 Response to F.O.A.



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box AF, Washington, D.C. 20231, on or before the date shown below.

*Eugene R. Montalvo*  
Eugene R. Montalvo  
Date: December 4, 2002

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GROUP 3600

PATENT  
TH-1258 (US)  
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12/19/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Donald W. Allen et al

Serial No. 09/625,893

Filed: July 26, 2000

SMOOTH SLEEVES FOR DRAG AND VIV  
REDUCTION OF CYLINDRICAL STRUCTURES

Group Art Unit: 3673

Examiner: K. Mitchell

December 4, 2002

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION MAILED 04 OCTOBER 2002  
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Box AF  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Attorney for applicants in the above-captioned case hereby respond to the Final Office Action mailed 04 October 2002. At the time of the Final Office Action, claims 1 – 6 were pending. The amendments and remarks set forth below are further meant to address the issues raised by the Examiners Knight and Mitchell in a telephonic interview on 07 November 2002. Attorney respectfully requests entry of the following amendments to address the Examiners' basis for rejection, as further understood by Attorney following the interview. Redlined versions of the amendments are attached to this Response as Appendix A.